

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information
- 5       regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, comprising:
  - sensing, at a remote computer system, the number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system;
  - conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server
  - 10      application process;
  - conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and
  - presenting, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in a display
  - 15      for said local computer system.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - sensing, at said remote computer system, an activity level associated with at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system;

conveying said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions from said remote computer system to said awareness server application process; and

presenting, by said awareness client application process, said activity level 5 associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in said display for said local computer system.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, and said presenting 10 said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, comprises:

presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user and said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user simultaneously in said display for said local 15 computer system.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user reflects a time at which a most recent keystroke was entered by said user of said remote computer system in said at 20 least one of said instant messaging sessions.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user reflects a time at which a

most recent text message was received by said user of said remote computer system in  
said at least one of said instant messaging sessions.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of  
5 said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user further indicates a time  
at which said at least one of said instant messaging sessions was initiated.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

sensing, at said remote computer system, an identity of at least one other  
10 participant in at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of  
said remote computer system;  
conveying said identity of said at least one other participant from said remote  
computer system to said awareness server application process; and  
presenting, by said awareness client application process, said identity of said at  
15 least one other participant in said display for said local computer system.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said presenting said number of instant messaging  
sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system comprises presenting a  
modal dialog box in response to detection of a request by a user of said local computer  
20 system for an instant messaging session with said user of said remote computer system,  
wherein said modal dialog box provides an interface for said user of said local computer  
system to provide an indication of whether to terminate said request for said instant  
messaging session with said user of said remote computer system.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to indicate whether a number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said local computer system is to be shared with other users.

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10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to specify one or more other users with which a number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said local computer system is to be shared.

11. A system for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information

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regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, comprising:

means for sensing, at a remote computer system, the number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system;

means for conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server application process;

means for conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and

means for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in a display for said local computer system.

5 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for sensing, at said remote computer system, an activity level associated with at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system;

means for conveying said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions from said remote computer system to said awareness server application process; and

means for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in said display for said local computer system.

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13. The system of claim 11, wherein said means for presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, and said means for presenting said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, comprises:

20 means for presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user and said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user simultaneously in said display for said local computer system.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user reflects a time at which a most recent keystroke was entered by said user of said remote computer system in said at least one of said instant messaging sessions.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user reflects a time at which a most recent text message was received by said user of said remote computer system in said at least one of said instant messaging sessions.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user further indicates a time at which said at least one of said instant messaging sessions was initiated.

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17. The system of claim 13, further comprising:

means for sensing, at said remote computer system, an identity of at least one other participant in at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system;

20 means for conveying said identity of said at least one other participant from said remote computer system to said awareness server application process; and

means for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said identity of said at least one other participant in said display for said local computer system.

18. The system of claim 11, wherein said means for presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system comprises  
5 means for presenting a modal dialog box in response to detection of a request by a user of said local computer system for an instant messaging session with said user of said remote computer system, wherein said modal dialog box provides an interface for said user of said local computer system to provide an indication of whether to terminate said request for said instant messaging session with said user of said remote computer system.

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19. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to indicate whether  
15 a number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said local computer system is to be shared with other users.

20. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system,  
20 wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to specify one or more other users with which a number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said local computer system is to be shared.

21. A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable medium, said computer readable medium having a computer program for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, said computer program comprising:

- 5           program code for sensing, at a remote computer system, the number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system;
- program code for conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server application process;
- 10          program code for conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and
- program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer
- 15          system in a display for said local computer system.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, said computer program further comprising:

- program code for sensing, at said remote computer system, an activity level associated with at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system;

program code for conveying said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions from said remote computer system to said awareness server application process; and

program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said 5 activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in said display for said local computer system.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein said program code for

10 presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, and said program code for presenting said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, comprises:

program code for presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated 15 with said remote user and said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user simultaneously in said display for said local computer system.

24. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said activity level associated

20 with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user reflects a time at which a most recent keystroke was entered by said user of said remote computer system in said at least one of said instant messaging sessions.

25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user reflects a time at which a most recent text message was received by said user of said remote computer system in said at least one of said instant messaging sessions.

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26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said activity level associated with said at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said remote user further indicates a time at which said at least one of said instant messaging sessions was initiated.

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27. The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:

program code for sensing, at said remote computer system, an identity of at least one other participant in at least one of said instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system;

15           program code for conveying said identity of said at least one other participant from said remote computer system to said awareness server application process; and

program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said identity of said at least one other participant in said display for said local computer system.

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28. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein said program code for presenting said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system comprises program code for presenting a modal dialog box in

response to detection of a request by a user of said local computer system for an instant messaging session with said user of said remote computer system, wherein said modal dialog box provides an interface for said user of said local computer system to provide an indication of whether to terminate said request for said instant messaging session with  
5 said user of said remote computer system.

29. The computer program product of claim 21, said computer program further comprising:

10 program code for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to indicate whether a number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said local computer system is to be shared with other users.

15 30. The computer program product of claim 21, said computer program further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said user of said local computer system, wherein said interface enables said user of said local computer system to specify one or more other users with which a number of instant messaging sessions associated  
20 with said user of said local computer system is to be shared.

31. A system for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, comprising:

program code, stored in a program memory communicably coupled to at least one processor in a remote computer system, operable to sense the number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system;

program code, stored in said program memory communicably coupled to said at least one processor in said remote computer system, operable to convey said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server application process;

program code, stored in a program memory communicably coupled to at least one processor in an awareness server computer system, operable to convey said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and

program code, stored in a program memory communicably coupled to at least one processor in said local computer system, operable to present, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in a display for said local computer system.

32. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, said computer data signal including at least one computer program for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, said computer program comprising:

program code for sensing, at a remote computer system, the number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system;

program code for conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server application process;

program code for conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated

5. with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and

program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in a display for said local computer system.